



Press Release

For Immediate Release
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Sonoma Valley Groundwater Management Plan Under Review

Santa Rosa, CA– The Sonoma County Water Agency reported this afternoon that the draft Sonoma Valley Groundwater Management Plan is available for review on the Agency's website at:
http://www.sonomacountywater.org/projects/svgroundwater/management_plan.php.

"I am extremely proud of Sonoma Valley for committing to the first groundwater management study in Sonoma County. It is an important step in assessing our future water needs and managing our water resources," said Valerie Brown, Chair of the Sonoma County Water Agency Board of Directors. The document is the first complete draft of the plan, which sets goals and identifies ways to protect and enhance the Sonoma Valley groundwater basin. Implementation will focus on protecting groundwater quality, enhancing recharge, reducing demand and increasing conservation. On Oct. 22, 2007, at 2 p.m. at the Sonoma Community Center, the Basin Advisory Panel will discuss a new draft to be released on Oct. 17.

Once adopted, the Sonoma County Water Agency will begin implementing the plan immediately. The Basin Advisory Panel will continue to provide input and guidance. The plan identifies projects and studies to sustain the Sonoma Valley groundwater resource over time. This will be accomplished by pursuing a menu of management actions that increase recharge (or "filling" the groundwater basin), reduce how much groundwater is used, and protect groundwater quality. Implementation will also involve an active monitoring program to understand the resource and address areas of concern. Finally, a comprehensive stakeholder involvement program will continue the effort to make the plan responsive to local needs and concerns as implementation moves forward.

The Basin Advisory Panel, made up of 20 members from throughout the Sonoma Valley, has been guiding development of the plan. The Panel includes 20 stakeholders representing urban, agricultural, environmental, residential well owner, water supply and governmental interests. The Sonoma County Water Agency and its cooperating partners, the County of Sonoma, City of Sonoma, Valley of the Moon Water District and Sonoma Valley County Sanitation District, will ultimately adopt the groundwater management plan. For more information or to schedule a briefing for your organization, please contact project manager Bill Keene at the Sonoma County Water Agency, (707) 547-1922.

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Sonoma County Water Agency provides water supply, flood protection and sanitation services for portions of Sonoma and Marin counties. Visit us on the Web at www.sonomacountywater.org.